



# the ... CityScene

## Murfreesboro nets three awards from TML conference

The City of Murfreesboro brought home three prestigious awards from the Tennessee Municipal League (TML) annual conference recently.

Murfreesboro Mayor Tommy Bragg was presented with TML's Mayor of the Year award.

He seemed genuinely surprised though he accepted with his usual grace and poise.

Among the characteristics of his administration quoted by TML

were his efforts to maintain and expand the city's already award-winning school system, his attention to economic development and his continued contact with neighborhoods as he has promoted cleanup programs, tree plantings, housing rehabilitation projects, street paving and regular neighborhood meetings to keep residents informed of the city's progress.

Tennessee's Achievement

Award for Excellence in Fire Safety went to Murfreesboro Fire Department (MFD).

Among the excellent services it provides are continued growth, fire-fighter certification and in-service programs, a compensation program that deflects outside recruitment, a shrinking response time, expanding equipment list, cross-training to provide employees

for its model First Responder program and customer-friendliness among its fire inspectors who keep up with new and existing construction and the department's PROJECT SAFE.

Tennessee City Management Association (TCMA) presented its Excellence in Municipal Government award to Murfreesboro for its economic development project, the Gateway District.



**Mayor Tommy Bragg**  
*TML Mayor of the Year*

This third award recognized an innovative economic development strategy that TML said emphasizes community input and high quality design.

That development project is Murfreesboro's newest economic development engine.

The 400-acre Murfreesboro Gateway project has become among the fastest-growing mixed-use developments in the Nashville area. The district is located 1.6 miles from downtown. \*\*



Murfreesboro Fire Department was recognized recently for excellence by Tennessee Municipal League recently. Kneeling from left in front of one of the department's new trucks are Driver Joe Bell and Firefighters Alveraz Constant and Tracy Brittain. From left standing are Assistant Fire Chief Gary Farley, Fire Chief David Baxter, Deputy Fire Chief Jimmy Francis, Assistant Fire Chief Allen Swader and Captain Jim O'Brien.

## **Hello World!**

- **son** William "Chase" Perry born to Greg and Tracy (Personnel) Oct. 15, 2004 weighing 8 pounds and 20 inches long.
- **son** Robert Tanner Nance born to Brook (Urban Environmental) and Mary Carolyn Nance; March 23 weighing 8 pounds, 15 ounces and 21 inches long.
- **son** Walter Haven Shaw, born to Haven (Water and Sewer) and Mandy Shaw June 14 weighing 7 pounds, 1.5 ounces and 20 inches long.
- **son** Brock Thomas born to Officer Paul (Police) and April Mongold April 28, 2005 weighing 7 pounds, 7 ounces.
- **daughter** Kendall Marie born to officer Scott Conard (Police) and Dana Thompson May 17 weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces.
- **daughter** Rachel Saith born prematurely to Officer Trey (Police) and Jenifer Mansfield, March 11 weighing 1 pound, 9 ounces. After two and a half months in Vanderbilt Hospital, Rachel weighed 7 pounds.
- **son** Evan born to Det. Shawn Jensen and Michele Case May 17 weighing 7 pounds, 5 ounces.
- **twin sons** Lucas Andrew and Caden Lee, born to Firefighter Brian and Kristi Lowe March 27 weighing 6 pounds, 1 ounce and 6 pounds, 2 ounces respectively.
- **daughter** Kenley Hope, born to Firefighter Johnathan and Tonya Bunch April 21 weighing 8 pounds.
- **daughter** Madison Renee, born to Firefighter Jason and Tammy Bowers May 4 weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces.
- **daughter** Kaitlynn Michelle, born to Firefighter Tim and Kristal Rowlett May 24 weighing 8 pounds, 1 ounce.
- **son** Jesse Wayne Mahaffey, born to Jessica and the late Michael Mahaffey (Solid Waste), March 30 weighing 7 pounds, 8 ounces and 20 ¼ inches long.
- **son** Noah Jacob, born to Officer Sean Garrison (Police) and Karissa June 20 weighing 7 pounds, 14 ounces.

**CityScene's staff sends  
our heartfelt  
condolences out to the  
families of the late  
Michael Mahaffey and  
Henry L. Patthey, valued  
employees and friends  
who died this year.**

## **Police personnel attend workshop**

By **LINDA STACY**  
*Murfreesboro Police Department*

Sixty-four Murfreesboro Police Department sworn and telecommunications personnel completed a three-day class in Incident Command/Law Enforcement Response to Terrorism in May.

The classes provided those who attended with basic understanding of the Incident Command System, which is a multidisciplinary approach to emergency management.

Capt. David Hudgens, certified by the Tennessee Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission, instructed.

At the end of the classes, those attending the classes participated in a two-hour tabletop exercise where they applied what they had learned to a mock crisis including possible terrorism an officer might encounter during traffic stops and other contacts with potential suspects. \*\*

## **News Briefs**

**Japanese Bon Odori Family Dance Festival** is scheduled for Sept. 10 from 5 until 7 p.m. in Patterson Park Community Center. Over 200 attended the last event, which resembles a traditional Japanese festival.

In other news from St. Clair Street Senior Center, a sushi-making demonstration, sponsored by "Aya Sushi" of Murfreesboro, will be held in the center beginning at 10 a.m.

Call program coordinator Brenda Elliott at 848-2550 for more information.

**CityScene is looking for a few good men and women.** We're planning to feature our employees who take time to be involved in local youth sports like baseball, football or soccer and other teams around the area.

If you are involved – or you know of someone who is – please contact **CityScene** Editor Chris

Shofner, 849-2629 or  
[cshofner@murfreesborotn.gov](mailto:cshofner@murfreesborotn.gov).

**Murfreesboro's water and sewer rates** are going up. Effective after July 1, the water and sewer rates will increase by 15 cents per 100 cubic feet. Also water and sewer connection fees will increase \$250 each. If you have questions, go to the city's web site, click on City Departments and then on Water and Sewer or call 893-0862.

**The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence** in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Murfreesboro and its chief financial officer, James B. Penner, City Recorder, for 2004.

This is the seventh year in a row Murfreesboro has been so honored.

The certificate is the highest form of recognition for excellence in government financial reporting given by the Government Finance Officers Association in Chicago. GFOA is comprised of over 16,000 government finance professionals.



## Robinson completes firefighter training at Deason fire school

Firefighter Shannon Robinson graduated May 20 from the rigorous eight-week Recruit Firefighter I course at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy near Deason. A licensed Paramedic, he joined Murfreesboro Fire Department Jan. 31 of this year.

## Group eyes inter-departmental communications

By **MARY STATES**  
Murfreesboro Safety Officer

WNNB992?? ... UHF, VHF, repeaters, towers, base stations, FCC licenses?

These are just a few of the terms that the Communications Committee (composed of volunteers from the City Safety Committee) are trying to understand.

Joe Maloney from the Parks and Recreation Department, heads the committee composed of safety officer Mary States and Solid Waste Director Joey Smith. He began with the seemingly simple task of determining how to warn city employees in the field about impending bad weather. The committee members quickly discovered that effective communications among the various departments can be a challenge.

The committee, with the help of Gemini Communications, Inc., has established three goals, first and second to construct an ability to talk to all employees in the field and an ability to communicate with other departments within the city, and third, to find needed funding through Office of Homeland Security grants and others.

These recommendations could be accomplished by sometime in the fall.

The Water and Sewer Department recently hosted David Dow, Vice President of Trench Safety and Supply to teach National Utility Contractors Association Competent Person Training (NUCA CPT), which provides instruction about identifying various hazards associated with trenching and excavations and understanding differ-

ing types of protections against collapse.

NUCACPT trained approximately eight city employees as evaluators who will make sure construction trenches comply with U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines requiring all trenches five feet or more in depth to have protections against collapse. Water and sewer department employees are among those who must often enter such trenches.

In other news, city employees who must work among traffic in fast-growing Murfreesboro are often at risk of being struck by vehicles so 47 employees from Street, Urban Environmental, Fleet Services, Parks and Recreation, Water and Sewer, Engineering and Solid Waste departments, along with representatives from Murfreesboro City Schools attended a recent special training class recently on Work Zone Safety and Flagging.

The classes were designed to train employees how to set up traffic controls around work zones that include sidewalks and walkways like the Greenway.

Murfreesboro Police Department's Lt. Byron Motley will continue his series of training sessions in Front Desk Safety and Security July 11 from 10 until 11 a.m. in Patterson Park Community Center, 521 Mercury Blvd. and Aug. 8 from 10 to 11 in the Water and Sewer Department's operations and maintenance facility at 1725 South Church St. The sessions are designed to provide employees who must deal with the public "the tools to handle difficult people and situations."

Call Mary States to reserve a seat at 217-3030. \*\*

## Nine hired, one retired between April 25, May 25

Nine employees were hired between April 25 and May 25, according to Personnel Department statistics, including Turf Care Supervisor **James V. Dibble** at Old Fort Golf Course, Mechanic **Earnest L. Sherrill** in Fleet Services, laborers **James D. McGill**, **Jerry Kelly Adams**, **Jamie E. Lewis** and **Patrick E. Ellis, Jr.** in the solid waste department; Dispatcher **Philip R. Hatcher** in the Police Department, Assistant Program Coordinator **William D. Johnson** in parks and recreation and Assistant City Attorney **David A. Ives** in Legal.

In other personnel news, **Jimmy W. Davis** retired as police captain.

By June 30, the City of Murfreesboro had 674 full time and 306 part time employees for a total of 980. \*\*

## Cable Goes Digital

By **BRIAN REED**  
Cable Channel 3

Before the advent of PDF's, PDA's, and DVD's, the Cable TV Department was using equipment that it's still using today to cable-cast meetings from the council chambers on Cable Channel 3.

Thanks to the Murfreesboro Cable Television Commission, City Administration, and the City Council, that's about to change as over the next couple of months the department will join the digital age by installing new equipment that includes new remote-controlled, digital cameras and plasma screen monitors to provide better images for all.

See "Cable", next page



# Officers rescue student at Fall Creek Falls

By LISA MARCHESONI

Special from the Daily News Journal



One Bradley School student owes her life to Murfreesboro Police Officers Abe Vongphakdy, pictured left, and Jacoby O'Gwynn (right and below), who risked their lives to save her from a near drowning recently. The 12-year-old student, who was not identified, was rescued May 26 from a deep pool underneath the falls at Fall Creek Falls State Park during a school-sponsored trip. Both Vongphakdy and O'Gwynn feared all three would lose their lives as they struggled to save her in a 10-minute ordeal. Vongphakdy said he and O'Gwynn were scared because the girl pulled them down into the frigid water, and they lost their breath several times. "At one time, we were linked to one thought — save her or drown," Vongphakdy said. "There's no giving up." "That's what police officers do every day," a school principal said. "Those officers are not going to let a child drown and not help."



## Cable

### PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE

#### (departmental correspondents)

Patsy Smith .....	Administration
Bonnie Stem .....	Building & Codes
Brian Reed .....	Cable Television
Patty Pope .....	Community Development
Debbie Webb .....	Fleet Services
Marty McCurry .....	Golf Course
Laurie Alsop .....	Fire Department
Linda Stacy .....	Police Department
Betsy Lee .....	911 Telecommunications
Terry Womack .....	Parks & Recreation
Sue Mahon .....	Personnel
Becky Shults .....	Planning
Chris Shofner .....	Public Information Officer
Mary States .....	Safety Director
Brenda Elliott .....	St. Clair Street Senior Center
Diane Nunley .....	Streets
Debbie Todd .....	Solid Waste
Sarah McNabb .....	Tax Administration
Cynthia Holloway .....	Urban Environmental
Karen Carr .....	Water & Sewer

Also included is a new multi-media presentation station outfitted with a document camera and computer will allow city staff to connect to the city's intranet to display GIS maps, Powerpoint presentations, CD-ROM's, and documents from the podium.

Viewers at home will notice a cleaner, brighter picture due to the higher resolution of the digital format. The audio signal will be improved due to new noise-reducing mixers. Behind the scenes, new hardware such as a switcher, routers, and monitors will bring the department up to date with current technology and make for a more efficient workflow for staff.

This will be especially important once the Institutional Network (I-Net) comes online. The I-Net will link many City facilities by fiber optics allowing direct-to-air capability.

The new equipment will certainly enhance the ability of the Cable TV Department to deliver the city's message to the public, but each city employee has a stake in that message, a stake in helping communicate, through shows like shows like "In the City," "Adventures in Murphy's Burrow," and "City School News", a focus on the positive things each department is doing to "create a better quality of life in Murfreesboro."



Hanging baskets of flowers designed by Stones River Garden Club, funded by Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club and maintained by Murfreesboro Urban Environmental Department (UE) decorate the lamp posts of Murfreesboro's public square. From left are UE Director Cynthia Holloway and department employees Fred Odreman and Robert Parrish.

Got a news tip?  
Contact your  
departmental  
correspondent

## CityScene Classifieds

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We're starting a new feature in CityScene. Our classified section is for any item you would like to have listed for sale, well, most any item, anyway. Just send us a description through your department correspondent (listed by name in a special box above, left) and include a home phone number. City of Murfreesboro contact information is specifically prohibited.

### FOR SALE

**Kromaski Mazurka Spinning Wheel** made in Poland. Dark Walnut color. Looks antique though new. Includes Lazy Kate and new pair of Ashford carders (\$45 invested) and some roving. Wheel used once. Found out allergic to wool; everything must go; \$300. Spinning wheel and Lazy Kate without Carders \$250.00. Also, CA 1898 Antique White Mountain Apple Peeler, \$50, made by Goodell Co. Antrim, N.H. USA. Call Brenda at 274-6195.

**18' dual axle 7000 lb. dovetail trailer**, \$1200; '93 Ford F150, \$2500; '90 Buick Riviera, \$2000; '93 Firebird, \$2500; full-size Leer camper topper, metallic blue with clips, \$800. Call 907-7347 and ask for Freddy.

**1998 Nissan 200SX-SE**, 2-door, white with gray interior, spoiler, manual transmission, A/C, fully loaded, 125K miles, never wrecked, well maintained, very good cond., \$3500. Call 298-9389.